

From: Schaaf, Eric [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=07DFEBAC6733411E94963ECF47A95070-SCHAAF, ERIC]
Sent: 1/7/2021 1:41:29 PM
To: Pace, Donald [Pace.Donald@epa.gov]; Williamson, Anahita [Williamson.Anahita@epa.gov]; Mugdan, Walter [Mugdan.Walter@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: A draft for your review....

From: Pace, Donald <Pace.Donald@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 6:18 AM
To: Williamson, Anahita <Williamson.Anahita@epa.gov>; Mugdan, Walter <Mugdan.Walter@epa.gov>; Schaaf, Eric <Schaaf.Eric@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: A draft for your review....

From: Williamson, Anahita <Williamson.Anahita@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 7:42 PM
To: Mugdan, Walter <Mugdan.Walter@epa.gov>; Schaaf, Eric <Schaaf.Eric@epa.gov>; Pace, Donald <Pace.Donald@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: A draft for your review....

Best,
Anahita

From: Mugdan, Walter <Mugdan.Walter@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2021 6:58 PM
To: Schaaf, Eric <Schaaf.Eric@epa.gov>; Williamson, Anahita <Williamson.Anahita@epa.gov>; Pace, Donald <Pace.Donald@epa.gov>
Subject: A draft for your review....

[illegible]

As you know, we will soon be in transition to a new administration. Pete Lopez will be leaving us on January 20; the Administrator and other senior leaders will also be leaving then. It will be some time before new political leaders are appointed and take office; in the interim, senior career officials will serve in an acting capacity.

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official -- technically remain in their regular position, thus serving in two roles at once. Therefore, I'll be serving as both DRA and Acting RA at the same time, and we won't have an "Acting DRA" during the transition period.

Nevertheless, here in Region 2 (and in all the regions) it will be essential for us to have sufficient support in our respective front offices. All the regions will therefore be establishing a temporary position of "Senior Advisor for Management." Here in Region 2 I have asked Anahita Williamson to serve in this new, temporary position, and in that role she will be carrying out the functions that the DRA would otherwise perform. She will remain in that position until such time as a new RA is appointed.

A Further Wrinkle:

At the national level, President-Elect Biden has named Michael Regan, currently the environmental commissioner in North Carolina, to be the new EPA Administrator. It is likely to take a few days or weeks for him to be confirmed by the Senate. In the interim, the Agency will have an Acting Administrator.

Many of you will remember that during our last transition in early 2017, Region 2's then DRA Catherine McCabe was designated in the Agency's "Order of Succession" to serve as Acting Administrator in Headquarters until the new Administrator was sworn in. She served in that capacity for four weeks. As it happens, the Order of Succession that was put in place at that time has not subsequently been revised. Consequently, and unexpectedly, it falls to me to serve as Acting Administrator until Mr. Regan is confirmed (or until the incoming President selects someone else to serve as Acting Administrator).

During the time that I am in the role of Acting Administrator, I have asked Eric Schaaf to serve as Acting Regional Administrator here in Region 2. And during this time, Anahita will be in the Senior Advisor role described above. Once I am relieved of duty as Acting Administrator, I'll be looking forward to returning to Region 2. At that time Eric will return to his regular position, while Anahita will continue on as Senior Advisor.

Bottom Line:

In whatever capacity I find myself in the coming weeks and months, I look forward to continuing to work with all of you -- the best team I could possibly hope for!

Walter